



ALDEN H. EMERY  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

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# AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

WASHINGTON 6, D.C.

1155 SIXTEENTH ST., N.W.

January 27, 1954

## PERSONAL

Dr. Michael Heidelberger  
Department of Medicine  
Columbia University  
620 West 168th Street  
New York 32, New York

Dear Doctor Heidelberger:

I am glad to have your frank statement of January 11. I should like to view it as a whole rather than to pick out sentences or phrases. Actually, I presented Mr. Hanson's letter in the hope that you would treat it in the same manner. Like you, I do not agree with his comment about expulsion but I wanted you to get from it simply a tone. In this reply I shall treat your letter in exactly that fashion.

In a letter to Doctor Rabinowitch, released for publication in the "Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists," I have said, among other things, that "Race, color, creed, and political beliefs of themselves are not a consideration for membership." That is true and I hope that it never will be changed. Yet, for the first time in our history as far as I know, we have a political party which dictates how its members shall think and which even denies proven scientific principles and substitutes its own, for political reasons. I do not see how basic science as we know it can exist under Communism. Dictation to a scientist of what he can say in regard to science and what he can believe in regard to science is completely repugnant to us. Is not one way to prove this to point out that active Communists have no place in a free scientific organization? No element of fear, to which you refer, is involved.

I am not a member of the ACS Committee on Admissions. True, it invited me to discuss this subject, at the time the application was under consideration, with the Committee. I did so but was not present when its decision was reached and have not conferred with it since that time. I think it took the right action and in what I am writing you, I am expressing my own opinions in regard thereto.

The ACS has no intention of starting a "witch hunt." I am firmly convinced that it will not make political considerations a requirement for membership. Yet, any Society has the right to reject an application and even to remove from its membership rolls a person whose presence "in any wise tends to injure the Society or to affect

Dr. Michael Heidelberg

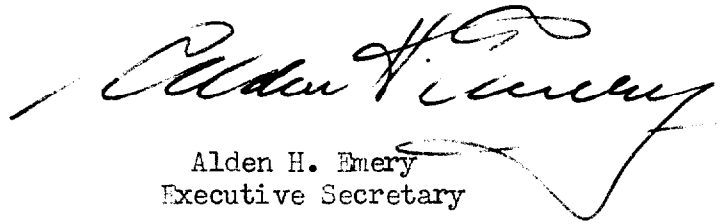
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adversely its reputation or which is contrary to or destructive of its objects." Thus, had Gold been a member of the Society at the time of his conviction, I am certain that proceedings would have been instituted for his expulsion. I am not implying that there is any similarity between the two cases but simply making the point that membership is not a right but a privilege.

Again, this is a personal letter to you and is not for publication.

Cordially yours,



Alden H. Emery  
Executive Secretary

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